

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /091 W  
-----038752 021133Z /10

R 011606Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7013  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, IS, US  
SUBJECT: EBAN PROPOSED AS GOVERNMENT INFORMATION EMISSARY TO U.S.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN MET WITH ABBA EBAN ON JUNE 29 AND PROPOSED THAT HE GO TO THE U.S. AS PART OF THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC. THE OFFER HAS THE APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. EBAN SEEMS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE IDEA AND IS CONSULTING WITH HIS POLITICAL ALLY, ALIGNMENT CHAIRMAN SHIMON PERES, AND OTHER PARTY COLLEAGUES.

2. ACCORDING TO DANNY BLOCK, WRITING IN DAVAR, EBAN EMPHASIZED TO DAYAN THAT HE WOULD SPEAK HIS OWN MIND AND NOT NECESSARILY PROPOUND THE VIEWS OF THE  
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GOVERNMENT. EBAN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD REALIZE THAT ISRAELI DOVES LIKE HIMSELF ARE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT RECENT U.S. PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT RUN COUNTER TO THE ISRAELI CONSENSUS ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES.

3. MEANWHILE, SEVERAL ALIGNMENT LEADERS HAVE

PUBLICLY STATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MISSION BY EBAN. MK MOSHE SHAHAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE ALIGNMENT'S KNESSET FACTION (WHIP), INSISTED THAT EBAN OBTAIN THE ALIGNMENT'S FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE MISSION. SHAHAL MAINTAINED THAT THE OFFER INDICATED THAT THE LIKUD'S POLICY HAD ALREADY ENCOUNTERED MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE U.S.; THAT SHMUEL KATZ' RECENT INFORMATION MISSION HAD BEEN A FAILURE; AND THAT THE LIKUD HAS NO SUITABLE PEOPLE OF ITS OWN TO SEND ON A PR CAMPAIGN.

4. MK YITZHAK NAVON, AS DOVISH AS EBAN IN THE LABOR PARTY, ALSO OPPOSES THE MISSION BY EBAN, POINTING OUT THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT AND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OVERLOOKED OR NOT UNDERSTOOD ABROAD. EBAN WILL BE VIEWED AS AT ONE WITH THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. IF EBAN WANTS TO STRESS THE AREAS OF CONSENSUS IN ISRAEL, HE SHOULD PUBLISH (SUCH AS HIS RECENT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE) AND NOT TRAVEL AS A LIKUD GOVERNMENT EMISSARY.

5. COMMENT: IF EBAN ACCEPTS, IT WILL BE A VICTORY FOR THE LIKUD IN ITS EFFORTS TO BLUR ITS DIFFERENCES WITH THE ALIGNMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. WITH HIS DISTINCT IMAGE AS A MODERATE, EBAN WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED TO RENDER A REAL SERVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SOFTENING PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ITS STAND AS EXTERMIST. AS NAVON SUGGESTS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT EBAN COULD SUCCEED IN DEFENDING THE NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN ISRAEL WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING A DISCERNABLE DISTANCE FROM THE BEGIN-DAYAN POSITION ON THE WEST BANK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** EBAN PROPOSED AS GOVERNMENT INFORMATION EMISSARY TO U.S.  
**TAGS:** PBOR, IS, US, (DAYAN, MOSHE), (EBAN, ABBA)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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